

METHODOLOGY FOR TESTING SPREADSHEETS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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The invention includes a method for testing a spreadsheet cell. Du-associations are
5 collected for the spreadsheet cell. The cell's execution trace is tracked. After the user
validates the cell, the du-associations that participated in the execution trace are marked as
executed. Du-associations for other cells that are affected by the testing a spreadsheet cell are
similarly marking as exercised.

10 If the user changes a cell's contents, the collected du-associations for the cell are
discarded and the steps of collecting test elements, tracking execution traces, and marking are
repeated. Cells that depend on the changed cell also repeat these steps.

After the user marks a cell as validated, a validation symbol is shown on the cell. If
the cell's validation status is later brought into question, the validation symbol can change or
be removed entirely.

15 The invention also includes a method for providing a user with feedback of the
testedness of the spreadsheet cells. The du-associations for each spreadsheet cell are
maintained, and the subset of du-associations that have been exercised is identified. Using
the numbers of tested and untested du-associations, a testedness measure is calculated for the
cell, which is provided to the user.
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